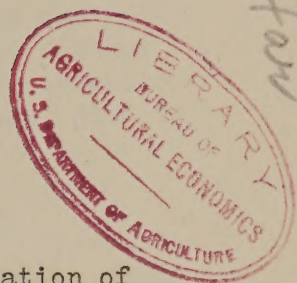


United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Division of Information

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-- The Farm Program and Farm Progress --

(From the Congressional Record of March 5, 1940)

Looking ahead to 1940, farmers are hoping for a continuation of the improvement in agricultural conditions which has taken place during the course of the past 7 years. Reviewing their condition, they recall the 12 years of agricultural decline between 1920 and 1932 and most vividly the despair of 1932. The farmers have fought their way up from that devastating year of 1932 and feel certain that, given a continuation of the national farm program, they will be able to make further progress in 1940 toward a permanent agriculture in the United States.

They feel this hope and confidence in continued progress toward this goal not because fundamental agricultural difficulties have disappeared but because, through the national farm program they have the necessary help for dealing with their difficulties.

In 1932 farmers were burdened with mountainous surpluses of many farm products for which there was no need at home and no sale abroad. Now, through the use of acreage allotments, marketing quotas, and commodity storage loans, they are able to produce and market these crops according to needs for domestic consumption, foreign demand, and for adequate reserves.

In 1932 there was appalling waste of farm products that were needed but were regarded as surplus only because hungry people who needed them had no money to buy them. Now, through surplus removal provisions of the farm program, surpluses of this kind are being used, benefiting the needy and improving the farmers' markets.

In 1932 farmers did not have enough income to take proper care of their land and they were forced into mining the soil through overcropping and overgrazing in an effort to produce more to compensate for lower prices. Now, through production adjustment to eliminate needless soil waste and by treatment of land to control erosion and maintain and improve fertility, they are making real progress in conservation.

In 1932 farm families were losing their homes through wholesale foreclosure and interest rates on agricultural credit were higher than they could pay. Now they have a complete Federal agricultural credit service at reasonable rates of interest.

In 1932 a large percentage of farmers were unable to pay interest and taxes and most farmers had no money to buy goods that make business and jobs and cities and towns. Now farm families again provide an important market for city goods and services and make an important contribution to national income and national welfare.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
FOR THE YEAR 1900

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The measures that have been taken in the last 7 years in the formulation of the national farm program have made it possible for farmers to work together on a Nation-wide scale in cooperation with Government to protect their income, their land, and their homes and at the same time to contribute to the welfare of all the people.

MORE FARM INCOME--GREATER SECURITY ON THE LAND

Farmers had nearly twice as much income in 1939 as in 1932. Cash income rose from \$4,682,000 to \$8,518,000. Farm prices increased from 65 percent of the pre-war level to 93 percent. The exchange value of farm products increased from an average of 61 percent of the pre-war level in 1932 to 77 percent in 1939.

From 1932 to 1939 both farm income and prices paid by farmers increased, but farm income made a more rapid advance so that in 1939 farmers were able to buy about 99 percent as much of the things they needed as in 1929.

Since 1933 the number of forced farm sales has declined approximately 69 percent. The number of farm bankruptcies in this period declined 70 percent. The Nation's total farm-mortgage debt has been reduced by more than \$2,000,000,000 from the early 1930 level.

MOST FARMERS COOPERATE IN FARM PROGRAM

The extent of cooperation of farmers is one of the best measures of success of the farm program. Nearly 6,000,000 farmers are in the program. Under the provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act about 80 percent of the farm land and 70 percent of the privately owned range land were included in 1939 participation.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENT OUTSTANDING

Many phases of the farm program contribute to the conservation of the Nation's agricultural resources. Through the adjustment provisions of the program about 30 million acres of land have been shifted from soil-depleting to soil-conserving uses annually. Included in soil-conserving uses were fifty-five and one-half million acres of new seedings of soil-conserving crops, fifteen and one-half million acres of contour farming, contour listing, and controlled fallow, construction of 392,000,000 feet of terraces, and construction of more than 16,000,000 feet of contour ridging on pasture land.

Up to June 30, 1939, a total of forty-eight and one-fourth million acres of farm land in 82,000 farms were covered by 5-year agreements with the Soil Conservation Service. These agreements provided for complete farm plans for erosion control and good land management.

Soil Conservation Service demonstration areas now include sixty-eight and three-fourths million acres. There are 217 soil-conservation

districts, organized under State laws, covering an area of 120,000,000 acres. Within these districts there are more than a million farms. Another 100 districts are in the process of organization.

Range livestock producers have carried out an extensive program of range conservation, cooperating with three agencies of the Department of Agriculture administering portions of the farm program. Range-improvement practices were employed on approximately 190,000,000 acres under the 1938 A. A. A. program.

Under the supervision of the Forest Service, grazing on more than 80,000,000 acres of national forest lands is regulated with the assistance of range committees made up of livestock producers.

The Soil Conservation Service has constructed more than 4,000 ponds, largely on range land. A. A. A. payments have assisted producers, mostly range producers, to construct 25,000 ponds. These ponds control floodwater and store it for livestock.

RECORD ADVANCE IN FOREST CONSERVATION

The greatest advance in the history of reforestation and conservation in this country has been made during the last 7 years. About 12,000,000 acres have been purchased or approved for purchase--more than two and one-half times as much as in the preceding 22 years. Approximately 125,000,000 trees, produced largely in Forest Service nurseries, have been planted on 131,000 acres of national-forest lands.

Under the supervision of the Forest Service in the Prairie States forestry project, 127,000,000 trees in 11,000 miles of plantings provide protection for 3,000,000 acres of land.

In the farm-forestry program of the Soil Conservation Service 314,000 forest trees were planted on farm lands in 1938. Under the A. A. A. program of 1938, more than 55,000 acres of farm land were planted to forest trees.

One important reason for the remarkable progress in conservation has been the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps, working largely under the supervision of the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service.

Protection of Federal, State, and private forests from fire has occupied a total of four and three-fourths million man-days of actual fire fighting during the time the C. C. C. has been in existence. Since 1933 they have planted one and two-thirds billion trees, built 22 forest nurseries, and carried out forest-improvement work on three and one-half million acres of established forest lands.

In soil-conservation projects, C. C. C. camps have completed work on one and one-fourth million acres of farm land under 5-year agreement for complete plans of erosion control and farm management.

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DESTITUTE FARM FAMILIES BECOME SELF-SUPPORTING

The national farm program has made loans to 600,000 farm families who were on relief or near relief status to help them become self-supporting. The Farm Security Administration has combined rural rehabilitation loans with assistance in developing farm- and home-management plans. Of the \$360,825,429 loaned up to December 1, 1939, a total of nearly \$107,000,000 has been repaid.

By the end of September 1939 low-cost medical plans were available to more than 65,000 families in 26 States. Up to January 1, 1940, a total of 231,626 farmers had received the benefit of community-service loans enabling them to share the cost of expensive farming equipment which they could not buy individually. For this purpose the Farm Security Administration assisted in the formation of 11,675 small cooperatives.

By January 1, 1940, camps established for migratory workers accommodated 2,520 families and additional units to accommodate 3,261 families were under construction.

By the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 1940, loans will be made enabling more than 13,000 tenants to purchase farms of their own.

WIDESPREAD PROGRESS IN IMPROVED LAND USE

In addition to the progress under the adjustment and conservation features of the farm program improved-land use has been brought about on 8,500,000 acres of submarginal land purchased and developed principally for forestry and grazing.

In the dry-land areas this submarginal land, unsuited to continued cultivation, is being turned back to grass and made available to nearby farmers to help them shift more to livestock production and away from the uncertainties of cash crop production.

An important part of the efforts in the Western States toward a more permanent type of agriculture is the development of small water facilities to supply needs for livestock and, in some cases, to irrigate a small portion of a farmer's or rancher's land.

CONSUMER PROTECTION PROVIDED

The chief provisions of the farm program helping to stabilize market supplies and prices of farm products provide protection both for consumers and producers.

The ever-normal granary reserves which make the surpluses of good years available in years of crop failure are made possible by commodity storage loans and crop insurance of wheat.

Forty-six million dollars were loaned to 64,000 wheat producers on 84,000,000 bushels of their 1939 crops.

Premiums totaling 10,741,000 bushels of wheat had been paid in up to October 19, 1939, by 296,505 wheat producers for insurance on the crop to be harvested in 1940.

In the corn-loan program, 271,315 producers stored 257,127,595 bushels of the 1939 crop under loans totaling \$146,562,729.

BETTER FARM INCOME MEANS BETTER CITY BUSINESS

Many phases of the farm program have contributed to the protection of farm income. Adjustment in line with market needs commodity storage loans, marketing quotas, and marketing-agreement programs to regulate the flow to market, removal of surpluses from congested markets--all have played an important part.

Protection and improvement of farm income is essential both to agricultural welfare and to the national welfare. The buying power of farm families is necessarily limited to the exchange value of their products. Parity payments made to producers cooperating in the farm program have helped to bridge the gap between market price and fair exchange value and have helped to maintain the ability of farm families to purchase city goods and services.

The export programs for wheat and cotton have helped to protect farm income and at the same time have helped to protect the interests of United States farmers in the world market.

With the help of the wheat export subsidy 118,000,000 bushels of wheat were sold abroad in the 1938-39 marketing year--an amount equal to a little more than 20 percent of the world wheat market normally supplied by United States producers during the 1920's.

With the help of the cotton export subsidy, more than 6,000,000 bales of cotton have been sold for export since July 1939, compared with only about three and one-half million bales for the entire previous marketing year.

One of the important elements of a sound farm program, essential to agricultural stability and security is adequate credit at reasonable rates. This also is important to greater net income through reduction in financing costs.

From May 1, 1933, to January 1, 1940, individual farmers and their cooperative organizations obtained \$5,951,000,000 in loans and discounts from institutions under the supervision of the Farm Credit Administration.

To the close of 1939 the Rural Electrification Administration of the Department of Agriculture has made total allotments of \$273,000,000

for the construction of 260,000 miles of line to serve 600,000 farm families. Already 400,000 farms have been connected to Rural Electrification Administration sponsored lines, the greater majority of which are cooperatively managed. The number of electrified farms in the United States has more than doubled from 1935 to the present time. Approximately 25 percent of American farms were electrified by January 1, 1940, compared with 10.9 percent on January 1, 1935.

FARM SURPLUSES FEED THE NEEDY

More than 1,300,000 producers are directly affected by 45 marketing-agreement programs which help to protect and improve the incomes of producers of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products. The farm value of crops and of fluid milk handled under marketing-agreement programs approximated \$300,000,000 in 1939.

Expanded domestic distribution and consumption of farm products has been brought about through two types of programs. Direct purchases to remove surpluses from congested markets provide supplies distributed through State relief agencies. The food order stamp plan, by putting increased buying power into the hands of needy families, speeds the flow of surpluses through the regular channels of trade.

Direct purchases in 1939 removed a total of 1,700,000,000 pounds of surpluses for distribution to needy families. A total of more than 6,000,000,000 pounds has been purchased during the 6 years of this work.

One of the most important phases of surplus-removal programs is the accomplishment in supplying food for undernourished school children. During the 1938-39 school year, donation of surpluses made possible free lunches for more than 800,000 undernourished school children. Efforts to expand this program this school year resulted in 1,250,000 undernourished children receiving free school lunches daily during December 1939.

DEFENSE AGAINST INSECTS AND DISEASE STRENGTHENED

While all the new efforts were being made in the field of agriculture, other important work, established earlier, has not been neglected. In fact it has been increased.

Efforts under general legislation enacted in 1937 in cooperation with State and local agencies to protect crops from grasshoppers are estimated to have saved crops valued at more than \$100,000,000 each year.

During the last three seasons, crops on more than a million acres have been protected from Mormon crickets through cooperative efforts.

Expansion of operations for control of black-stem rust of small grains, blister rust of white pines, and peach virus diseases, has brought these diseases under control in large, important areas and has given worth-while employment to thousands of men certified through relief agencies.

Since the appearance of pink bollworm of cotton in some of the Gulf States in 1933, a new insect has been on the list of important ones for which control measures have been provided.

In 1934 infestations of screwworm in new areas in the Southeastern States caused the death of thousands of animals. Special funds provided for an educational and control program which has reduced losses to a minimum.

Eradication of cattle ticks, begun in 1906 in cooperation with States affected, has been so speeded up that now only 1 percent of the original area remains under quarantine.

Bovine tuberculosis-control work, begun in 1917, had by 1934 resulted in 53 percent of the counties of the country being accredited. Additional funds made available have so speeded up this work in the last 5 years that the number of accredited counties has increased from 53 percent to 99.8 percent.

Testing of cattle for Bang's disease control with funds provided in 1934 has resulted in practical eradication of this disease in 209 counties in 17 States.

The national poultry-improvement plan, started in 1934 to increase poultry-production efficiency by disease control and improved breeding, now has active participation through 42,591 breeding flocks and hatcheries in 44 States.

NEW EFFORTS TOWARD NEW USES FOR FARM PRODUCTS

Expansion of the efforts to provide additional outlets for farm products through the development of new industrial uses has been made possible through funds provided for four regional research laboratories. This work is important to agriculture, not only to provide broader markets but to offset the effects of the development of products that have displaced farm products.

Expansion of research in the field of production and marketing and of educational work of the Cooperative Extension Service also has been made possible by congressional authorization as a part of a broad program for the improvement of agricultural conditions.

PRODUCER AND CONSUMER SERVICES IMPROVED

Both producers and consumers are benefiting from new legislation of the period since 1932 strengthening marketing regulation.

The Commodities Exchange Act provides for supervision of futures trading in the important agricultural commodities to prevent market manipulation and insure fair practice.

The Food, Drug, and Cosmetics Act has greatly strengthened legal provisions protecting the public against misbranding, adulteration, and deception.

The Packers and Stockyards Act, as amended, now includes protection in the marketing of live poultry against unreasonable charges that would affect both the price paid the producer and the price charged the consumer.

The new Federal Seed Act prohibits misrepresentation of field and garden seeds handled in interstate commerce.

TOWARD PERMANENT AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT

Through county and community planning, the provisions of the farm program are being directed toward a permanent, well-balanced agriculture.

Farmers are furthering the democratic ideals of the Nation, not only through their administration of the farm program locally but through planning by democratic processes for a permanent agriculture with local, State, and Federal aids all applied toward the same objectives, in harmony with natural and social conditions.

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(Note: In a few cases above the figures have been brought up to date and made to conform with the latest available data.)

end

1. The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated January 1, 1861. It is a very important document, as it contains the President's message to the Congress at the beginning of his first term.

2. The second part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Treasury, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Treasury and the country's finances.

3. The third part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Interior and the country's resources.

4. The fourth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Navy, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Navy and the country's naval power.

5. The fifth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the War, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the War and the country's military power.

6. The sixth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the State, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the State and the country's foreign relations.

7. The seventh part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Education, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Education and the country's educational system.

8. The eighth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Agriculture, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Agriculture and the country's agricultural production.

9. The ninth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Commerce, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Commerce and the country's trade.

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11. The eleventh part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Fisheries, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Fisheries and the country's fishing industry.

12. The twelfth part of the document is a report from the Secretary of the Public Lands, dated January 1, 1861. It contains information about the state of the Public Lands and the country's land resources.